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Address, THE CAPE FEAR, Wilmington, N. C.

CAPE FEAR.

CICERO W. HARRIS.
FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 22, 1876
THE COUNTRY NOT IN A PASSION.

Though the people are profoundly moved by the course of events they are not in a passion. The bayonet programme as announced so flippantly by Grant has excited indignation. But there is comparatively little ill-temper. All or nearly all the fiery spirit that has been shown is exhibited by the red hot fomenters of national strife who are trying desperately to intimidate the people.

The country will not be torn by civil war again for many years. The fighting men do not want war. The non-combatants alone can't get one up. The peace that pervades the land is profound and we trust enduring. No unholy ambition will be allowed to rend asunder the Union now cemented with blood and suffering. No Mexicanizing this people is possible. Saxon and Celtic blood will not tolerate a general despotism. As long as the mailed hand was held at the Southerner's throat only feeble protests were uttered, but the people of the North who secretly delighted, doubtless, in seeing this once belligerent section severely punished for what they considered the dark sin of treason will not themselves submit to be throttled by the same rude member. They say this thing of military interference in civil affairs has gone far enough and must stop. All over the North by press and convention will soon be heard the general voice of condemnation. When it falls on the ears of the Carolina conspirators at Washington they will tremble and desist. The decided attitude of the Democrats in Indiana and Ohio has caused a pause. The Democratic victory in the Boston municipal contest was significant of sentiment in that quarter. Senators are in doubt about the power of the President of the Senate to count the electoral vote. Business men in New York and other large cities are holding meetings with the view of settling the national troubles without resort to violence and dishonesty. The better Republican journals are warning the party leaders against pursuing a policy of force and fraud. Everything is favorable for the cause of truth and justice.

If the Democrats were rampant for a civil strife—if they did not plant themselves squarely on their constitutional rights—if they did not restrain their violent leaders and spur on their cowardly, time-serving ones, there would be either a disastrous conflict of arms or a tame backing down before brute force. The middle course of wisdom and statesmanship has been decided on. The Fernando Woods, the Ben Hills and the Aleck Stephens are in the rear, while the Bayards, the Randalls, the Hewitts, the Ransoms and the Gordons are in the front. The Democratic party is firm and confident. The people are faithful. The right will triumph.

SOUTHERN CHARACTER.
Now and then praise of the South is extorted from Northern journals. The people of this section have passed so patiently and heroically through the ordeals to which they were subjected by Northern prejudice and malignity that such cynics as the New York Herald are compelled to wonder and admire. Says the Herald: "The wisdom, moderation and loyalty of the Southern members of Congress and other exponents of Southern opinion in this critical and exciting juncture ought to be met in a similar spirit by the President and by all good citizens. We attribute this praiseworthy attitude to the manliness of the Southern character, which has always scorned 'trick, subterfuge and bluster.'"
Well, praise from Sir Hubert, is praise indeed. When a Northern jour-

nal which depends for its support upon Northern patronage is moved to say that Southern character has "always scorned trick, subterfuge and bluster." Southern leaders may congratulate the country on the return of right reason to its throne and of that sense of justice which strikes its sword through the coverings of prejudice to let in the light.

THE APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS

Why is the Christian world stirred by the return of a certain day in every year? Other days have been celebrated for a few lustrums or a century or two, but this festival of December 25th has been scrupulously observed with alternations of rude rejoicing and religious seriousness for more than one and a half millennial periods. Indeed for nearly two thousand years has the "one half world" kept the feast of Christmas sacred. There is something so remarkable in this that it has formed the perennial theme of author and preacher.

Poets have immortalized the season. One of Milton's earliest, as likewise one of his loftiest productions, was his "Hymn on Christ's Nativity"—a poem we always read once or more every year, and always with new pleasure and we trust with some profit. Some of Herrick's verses, in a far lighter vein, are also excellent, and old, quaint, devout, simple-hearted Herbert has certainly left a legacy in his Christmas poetizings, the world ought evermore to cherish fondly.

Then comes the flood of Christmas prose. First is the princely humorist Charles Dickens. We care not for the sneers of the peculiar friends of Thackeray, who see nothing remarkable in Boz, and less for Dickens' dislike of Americans and contemptible treatment of Southern manners and life in his exaggerated and hurried "Notes." Let Dickens and Thackeray occupy what positions they may with a critical public, we must be allowed our opinion of those wonderful creations which in every land have been and still are the delight of old as well as young, and which, in piquancy, originality, quaint humor, pathos and expression of human character in its many-sidedness, have never been rivalled and are clear-cut out of the pure, crystalline rock of genius. His Christmas stories are of Dickens' best moments of inspiration. Than "David Copperfield" and the inimitable "Pickwick Papers" he has written nothing greater.

From Christmas literature it is but a step to Christmas music. But of those "glorious and lofty hymns" we have left ourself no room to speak. The liturgies and the psalmodies of the churches provide for sacred praise and thanksgiving, and those who believe not in the institution of the day and join not in its swelling anthems, give it the respect due to its venerable age, its hallowing influences and its world-wide celebration.

TILDEN'S STAR IN THE ASCENDANT.

The CAPE FEAR has been all the while firm in its belief that Tilden would be inaugurated. That confidence is now beginning to be shared by many who lately were doubting Thomases. The basis of our hope was the strength of the Republican Idea. Behind all the menaces of Morton and Chandler and the drunken vapors of Grant, there is something which they fear—the manly spirit of the masses. These conspirators have been throwing out feelers, and by this time, if they are wise, they might ascertain the disposition of the people in regard to the Presidential count and inauguration.

This country is not yet Hayti, neither is it Mexico nor Costa Rica. The Republicans, no more than the Democrats, will brook the programme announced by Grant in his maudlin interviews. They will let him and his associates in crime know long before the fateful day in the short month of February that they mean to have justice done.

Mr. Tilden can hardly be cheated out of the election. He will not be kept out of his seat by bayonets. The bayonet plan was promulgated too soon. A coup d'etat is a surprise. The manning of the President and the outgivings of the other leaders reveal the danger in ample time to enable the people of this country to nip the conspiracy in the bud. It will never be chronicled that Rutherford Burchard Hayes was inaugurated President of the United States on the 5th of March, 1877, amid the sullen silence of civilians and the cold glitter of bayonets.

The most prominent merchants and taxpayers of Charleston have resolved to recognize only the Hampton government. Similar action will be taken throughout the State.
A farmer told us the other day that he would not be without Dr. Bai's Cough Syrup if it cost five dollars a bottle. It must be a wonderful remedy.

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The new paper will give warm encouragement to the agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests of the State. It will urge immigration. But while it will extend the hand of welcome to the sturdy foreigner or other immigrant, it will seek to impress upon the people already here the necessity for economy, thrift, labor and fidelity to home and State. North Carolinians must build up North Carolina. In presenting certain popular Literary Features the CAPE FEAR is ahead of its contemporaries. No American daily newspaper places original fiction habitually before its readers except in the form of sensational intelligence. Stories for the fireside, both serial and complete, will be found occupying a short space in THE CAPE FEAR. The literary matter of the paper will, however, always be subordinated to the news.

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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM, AS ADOPTED AT ST. LOUIS, MO., SEPTEMBER 22, 1876.

We, the States of the Democratic Party of the United States, in National Convention assembled, do hereby declare the administration of the Federal Government to be in urgent need of immediate reform; do hereby enjoin upon the nominees of this Convention and of the Democratic party in each State, a zealous effort and co-operation to this end, and do hereby appeal to our fellow-citizens of every former political connection to undertake with us this first and most pressing patriotic duty for the Democracy of the whole country.

We do here reaffirm our faith in the permanency of the Federal Union, our devotion to the Constitution of the United States, with its amendments, universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered the civil war; and do here record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government; in an absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of the Republic; in the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; in the total separation of Church and State, for the sake alike of civil and religious freedom; in the equality of all citizens before the laws of their own enactment; in the liberty of individual conduct untrammelled by summary laws; in the faithful education of the rising generation, that they may preserve, enjoy and transmit these best conditions of human happiness and hope. We behold the noblest products of a hundred years of changeless history; but while upholding the bond of our Union and great charter of these our rights, it behooves a free people to practice also that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty.

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE DEMANDED.

We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economies, by official retrenchments and by wise finance, which shall enable the nation to assure the whole world of its perfect ability and perfect readiness to meet any of its promises, in the call of the creditor entitled to payment. We believe such a system well devised, and above all, entrusted to competent hands for execution, creating at no time an artificial scarcity of currency, and at no time alarming the public mind into the withdrawal of that vast machinery of credit by which 95 per cent. of all business transactions are performed—a system open, public and inspiring general confidence, would, from the day of adoption, bring healing on its wings to all our harassed industry, and set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufactures and the mechanical arts; restore employment to labor and renew, in all its national source, the prosperity of the people.

REFORM IN TAXATION.

Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of Federal taxation so that capital may be set free from distrust and labor lightly burdened. We denounce the present tariff levied upon nearly five thousand articles as a masterpiece of injustice, inequality and false pretence. It yields a dwindling, not a yearly rising revenue. It has impoverished many industries to subsidize a few; it prohibits imports that might purchase the products of American labor; it has degraded American commerce from the first to an inferior rank upon the high seas. It has cut down the sales of American manufactures at home and abroad, and depleted the return of American agriculture or industry, followed by half our people. It costs the people five times more than it produces to the treasury, obstructs the processes of production, and wastes the fruits of labor. It promotes fraud and fosters smuggling, enriches dishonest officials and bankrupts honest merchants. We demand that all customhouse taxation shall be only for revenue.

RETRENCHMENT IN EXPENSES.

Reform is necessary in the scale of public expense, Federal, State and municipal out of Federal taxation has swollen from \$60,000,000, gold, in 1860, to \$450,000,000, currency, in 1870. Our aggregate taxation was from \$184,000,000, gold, in 1860, to \$720,000,000, currency, in 1870, or in one decade more than \$5 per head to more than \$18 per head. Since the peace the people have paid to their tax-gatherers more than thrice the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for the Federal Government alone. We demand a vigorous frugality in every department and from every officer of the government.

WASTE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Reform is necessary to put a stop to the profligate wastes of the public lands and their diversion from settlers by the party in power which has squandered two hundred millions of acres upon railroads alone, and out of more than three that aggregate has disposed of less than a sixth directly to tillers of the soil.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS AND HEATHEN CHIEFS.

Reform is necessary to correct the mistakes of the Republican Congress and the errors of our treaties, and our diplomatic relations which have stripped our adopted citizens of foreign birth and kindred race recrossing the Atlantic of the shield of American citizenship, and have exposed our brethren of the Pacific coast to the incursions of a race not sprung from the same great parent stock, and, in fact, now by law denied citizenship through naturalization, as being neither accustomed to the habits of a progressive civilization, nor exercised in liberty under equal laws. We denounce the policy which thus discards the liberty-loving German and tolerates the revival of the Coolie trade; in Mongolian women, imported for immoral purposes, and Mongolian men hired to perform servile labor contracts, and demand such modification by Congress, within a constitutional limitation, as shall prevent the further importation or immigration of the Mongolian race.

REFORM IS THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

Reform is necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the election. Lifting it above the two false issues with which the office-holding class and the party in power seek to smother it. The false issue with which they would enkindle sectarian strife is respect to the public schools, of which the establishment and support are demanded by the several States, and which the Democratic party has cherished from its foundation, and resolved to maintain without party or preference for any class or creed, and without contribution from the Treasury to any—the false issue by which they seek to light new the dying embers of sectional hatred between kindred people, once uncharitably estranged out now reunited in one indivisible Republic and a common destiny.

REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Reform is necessary in the civil service. Experience proves that the efficient, economical conduct of the governmental business is not possible if its civil service is subject to change at every election—be it sought for at the ballot-box—be it brief reward of party zeal, instead of post-humous honor, assigned for proved competence and held for fidelity in the public employ. That the dispensing of patronage should neither be a tax upon the time of all our public men, nor the instrument of their ambition. Here again profession falsified in the performance, attest that the party in power can work out no practical or salutary reform.

REFORM AMONG THE HIGHEST PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Reform is necessary even more in the higher grades of public service—Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Judges, Senators, Representatives, Cabinet officers. These officers, and others in authority, are the people's servants. Their offices are not a private prerogative; they are a public trust. When the annals of this Republic show the disgrace and censure of a Vice-President; a late Speaker of the House of Representatives marketing his rulings as a private officer; their friends profiting secretly by their votes as law-makers; five chambers of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives exposed in January; a late Secretary of the Treasury forcing balances in the public accounts; a late Attorney General; propagating party funds; a Secretary of the Navy enriching his friends by pecuniary levies on the profits of contractors with his Department; an ambassador in England concerned for a dishonorable speculation; the President's son speculating barely escaping conviction upon trial for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; a Secretary of War imposing for high crime and confessed misdemeanors—the demonstration is so complete that the first step in reform must be by the people, or honest men from another party. The disease of one political organization infects the body politic and thereby making no change of men or party, we can get no change of measures and no reforms.

RADICALS AND RADICALISM MUST BE DRIVEN FROM POWER. All these abuses, wrongs and crimes—the product of the sixteen years ascendancy of the Republican party—create a necessity for reform, confessed by Republicans themselves. But their reforms are voted down in convention and displaced from the Cabinet. The mass of honest voters is powerless to resist the eighty thousand office-holders—their leaders and guides.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Names of Officers.

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